

to be administered *ad libitum*, without prescription, and certain in many cases to produce when continued confirmed drug habits.

Dr. Frank G. Wheatly, of North Abington, Mass., says: "It has been demonstrated that as much antiseptic value can be obtained from a solution of any of the common antiseptics for one cent as from \$4.95 worth of *Listerine*."

NURSES IN CHARGE OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES.—Dr. John H. Nichols, Superintendent State Hospital, Tewksbury, Mass., as reported in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, says: "We teach" our nurses "about the micro-organism, the tubercle bacillus, without which the disease cannot exist. The great safeguards against tuberculosis are cleanliness, fresh air, sunlight, moderate exercise, regular habits of eating, sleeping, and bathing, especially of outdoor life."

These prophylactic measures keep the nurse in a condition to resist bacilli which may be accidentally inhaled and prevent their finding suitable breeding-ground in the lungs. Nurses should avoid inhaling the breath of these patients when working over them or talking with them. The sputa should be received in paper receptacles, or gauze handkerchiefs, and, as the chief source of danger, immediately burned. All dust must be speedily removed from the room by wiping with damp cloths, which are afterwards carefully disinfected.

In fourteen years, during which time over 5000 cases, mostly in the advanced stages of the disease, were cared for, Dr. Nichols knew of only one case where attendant, nurse, or physician had beyond doubt contracted the disease in the wards or in discharge of their duties. He believes no competent physician, or nurse, should exhibit any timidity whatever in caring for consumptives when allowed to control the sanitary arrangements.

SURGICAL SUBSTITUTES.—Says the *American Journal of Surgery*: "A scroll saw, with an assortment of a dozen saws, can be purchased at the hardware store for twenty-five cents; it is ideal for resection of the small bones of the hand and foot, for amputations of the digits, etc. Well tempered carpenter's chisels and gouges, and a carpenter's wooden mallet answer the purpose admirably for bone work. A useful bone drill can also be selected from the stock of the hardware dealer. A gardener's pruning knife and a carpenter's mitre saw are the best tools for the removal of plaster dressings. A cheap potato knife, rough sharpened on a stone, is excellent for cutting through starch bandages.

Crochet needles are most useful for lifting stitches out of a sinus. Knitting needles find another purpose as a means of rupturing the membranes when this is needed in obstetrical work. Sharp and blunt retractors may be fashioned, in an emergency, by bending the tines of a fork and the handle of a spoon, respectively. A teaspoon is also useful as an elevator of the eye, when resection of the superior maxilla is performed. An inverted tea strainer is useful in the dressing after colostomy, to prevent pressure of the gauze upon the gut. A spoon-shaped potato cutter may be used, in an emergency, as a wound curette. Similarly, applicators, probes, and depressors may be improvised by twisting stout copper wire. The multiple surgical uses of the hair pin are also well known. Of stouter material, if necessary, a small self-retaining speculum can be quickly made from steel wire; it often obviates the need of an assistant when searching the hand or foot for a foreign body. A wedge of hard wood makes a gag quite useful, often, when administering anæsthesia. A discarded thermometer case (or a hard rubber douche point) is a serviceable handle in which to mount, with candle grease or adhesive plaster, a stick of silver nitrate. Steel spring tape measures are better than the wires generally sold for the purpose, for conducting to an X-ray tube the current from the coil or static machine; easily kept taut, and quickly adjusted, they are safest for the patient and most convenient for the operator; that they are not insulated is inconsequential—the coverings on the regular wires do not insulate the induced current. Cheap powder blowers, such as are used for insecticides, may be employed as insufflators in surgical work, and pepper boxes are useful for dusting powders. Wooden skewers are serviceable nail cleaners. Rolling pins and kitchen towel racks are very convenient for adhesive plaster, rubber tissue, etc., especially for hospital dressings. Grocers' bags are the most serviceable receptacles for soiled dressings. Tar paper is a smooth, fairly waterproof material to tack on the floor when preparing a room for operation."

UNION OF SEVERED NOSE.—The *Medical Record* notices an interesting case recorded in the *British Medical Journal*. A young woman lost the tip of her nose in a bicycle accident. The portion, measuring about three quarters of an inch from side to side, half an inch vertically and less than an eighth of an inch in thickness, and containing little cartilage, was picked up, placed in warm water for a few minutes, washed in lysol 1-40 and secured in position by four catgut stitches. The wound was painted with compound tincture of benzoin and a few